

OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS RENDERED BY THE INTER- NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

Edited by

FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.

Secretary to the Commission

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OPINION 428

Suppression under the Plenary Powers of the specific name *royerianus* d'Orbigny, 1841, as published in the combination *Ammonites royerianus* and designation under the same Powers of a type species in harmony with accustomed practice for the genus *Chelonicerias*, Hyatt, 1903 (Class Cephalopoda, Order Ammonoidea)

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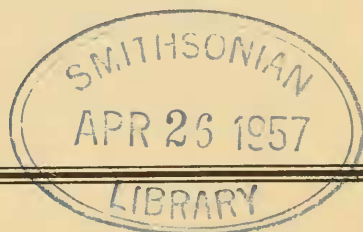
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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

COMPOSITION AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF THE RULING GIVEN IN OPINION 428

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Professor Enrico TORTONESE (*Museo di Storia Naturale "G. Doria", Genova, Italy*)
(16th December 1954)

OPINION 428

SUPPRESSION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS OF THE SPECIFIC NAME "ROYERIANUS" D'ORBIGNY, 1841, AS PUBLISHED IN THE COMBINATION "AMMONITES ROYERIANUS" AND DESIGNATION UNDER THE SAME POWERS OF A TYPE SPECIES IN HARMONY WITH ACCUSTOMED PRACTICE FOR THE GENUS "CHELONICERAS" HYATT, 1903 (CLASS CEPHALOPODA, ORDER AMMONOIDEA)

RULING :—(1) The following action is hereby taken under the Plenary Powers :—

- (a) The specific name *royerianus* d'Orbigny, 1841, as published in the combination *Ammonites royerianus*, is hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy.
- (b) All selections of type species for the genus *Cheloniceras* Hyatt, 1903 (Class Cephalopoda, Order Ammonoidea) made prior to the present Ruling are hereby set aside and the nominal species *Ammonites cornuelianus* d'Orbigny, 1841, is hereby designated to be the type species of the foregoing genus.

(2) The under-mentioned generic names are hereby placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* with the Name Numbers 1021 and 1022 respectively :—

- (a) *Cheloniceras* Hyatt, 1903 (gender : neuter) (type species, by designation under the Plenary Powers, under (1)(b) above : *Ammonites cornuelianus* d'Orbigny, 1841) ;

- (b) *Megatyloceras* Humphrey, 1949 (gender : neuter) (type species, by original designation : *Douvilleiceras coronatum* Rouchadzé, 1932).

(3) The under-mentioned specific names are hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* with the Name Numbers 1040 and 1041 respectively :—

- (a) *cornuelianus* d'Orbigny, 1841, as published in the combination *Ammonites cornuelianus* (specific name of type species of *Chelonicerias* Hyatt, 1903) ;
(b) *coronatum* Rouchadzé, 1932, as published in the combination *Douvilleiceras coronatum* (specific name of type species of *Megatyloceras* Humphrey, 1949).

(4) The under-mentioned specific name is hereby placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology* with the Name Number 357 : *royerianus* d'Orbigny, 1841, as published in the combination *Ammonites royerianus*, as suppressed under the Plenary Powers under (1)(a) above.

(5) The under-mentioned family-group name is hereby placed on the *Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology* with the Name Number 90 : CHELONICERATIDAE Spath (L.F.), 1923 (type genus : *Chelonicerias* Hyatt, 1903).

I. THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On 8th September 1952 Mr. R. Casey (*Geological Survey and Museum, London*) and Mr. C. W. Wright (*London*) submitted the following application to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature for the use of its Plenary Powers to

vary the type species of the genus *Cheloniceras* Hyatt, 1903 (Class Cephalopoda, Order Ammonoidea) in order to validate existing nomenclatorial practice :—

Proposed use of the Plenary Powers to vary the type species of the genus “*Cheloniceras*” Hyatt, 1903 (Class Cephalopoda, Order Ammonoidea), in order to validate existing nomenclatorial practice

By R. CASEY

(*Geological Survey and Museum, London*)

C. W. WRIGHT, M.A.

(*London*)

The object of the present application is to seek the help of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in stabilising the nomenclature of the genus *Cheloniceras* Hyatt, 1903. It is hoped that the Commission will be able to give early consideration to this case since a decision is required in connection with the preparation of the *Treatise on Invertebrate Palaeontology*.

2. The generic name *Cheloniceras* was published in 1903 in “*Pseudoceratites of the Cretaceous*”, a posthumous monograph of A. Hyatt, edited by T. W. Stanton. It was introduced in an editorial footnote (Hyatt, 1903 : 101), which reads as follows :—

“In the manuscript a sheet is inserted just before *Vascoceras* with the heading ‘Cosmocerotida’, followed by ‘In family description notice resemblance of form to Aspidoc. of Jura as more remote than to *Cheloniceras* of the Cretacic’. Another memorandum bears pencil-sketch copies of d’Orbigny’s figures of *Ammonites royerianus* (Pal. Fr. Terr. Crét., 1, pl. 112, figs. 3, 4) labelled *Cheloniceras royerianus*, indicating that he had probably selected this species as the type of a new genus . . . T.W.S.”

3. Notwithstanding the somewhat unusual circumstances of its introduction, the nominal genus *Cheloniceras*, with authorship credited to Hyatt and with *Ammonites royerianus* d’Orbigny (1841, *Paléont. française*, Terr. crét. 1 Céphalopodes : 365, pl. 112, figs. 3—5) as type-species, has since been universally accepted by ammonite specialists (e.g. Spath, 1921 : 316 ; Roman, 1938 : 426 ; Humphrey, 1949 : 143). It has come to occupy an important position in Cretaceous ammonitology and has formed the base of the family name CHELONICERATIDAE (Spath, 1923 : 35). Nomenclatorial stability of

the genus is threatened, however, by inability to assess satisfactorily the taxonomic characters of its type-species.

4. D'Orbigny's holograph of *Ammonites royerianus* illustrates an immature ammonite from the Aptian of Bailly-aux-Forges, Wassy (Haute-Marne), France, which is stated (Orbigny, 1841 : 365—366) to be 12 mm. in diameter and to be represented in natural size. As noted by Stoyanow (1949 : 104), however, the illustration is of 20 mm. diameter. In any case, the specimen is too immature for positive determination below family level, and authors have been obliged to base their conception of *Cheloniceras* on such species as *A. cornuelianus* d'Orbigny, 1841 (*Paléont. française*, Terr. crét. 1 Céphalopodes : 354, pl. 112, figs. 1—2) and *A. martini* d'Orbigny, of which there is abundant well-illustrated material. Kilian (1913 : 340) referred *A. royerianus* to the same group as *A. ricordeanus* d'Orbigny (now assigned to the genus *Megatyloceras* Humphrey, 1949, *Bull. geol. Soc. Amer.* 60 (No. 1) : 149), while Rodighiero (1922 : 63, 67, 69) even supposed it to belong to the genus *Astiericeras* Parona and Bonarelli (family ASTIERICERATIDAE). On the other hand, Nikchitch (1915 : 3, 4, 13, 50) asserted that *C. royerianum* is merely the young of *C. cornuelianum*, and supported this assertion by illustrations of the young stages of *C. cornuelianum*. Nikchitch's views have been discussed by Stoyanow (1949 : 104), who has pointed out that in this connection it is probably significant that the type-specimens of *A. royerianus* and *A. cornuelianus* were obtained from the same area and from the same stratigraphical horizon and that they were described in immediate succession by d'Orbigny and figured on the same plate. Although we think it very likely that *A. royerianus* is the young stage of a species of the *cornuelianum* group, we do not consider its reference to *C. cornuelianum* to be beyond doubt. There are a number of allied species (e.g. *C. crassum* Spath and *C. kiliani* von Koenen) which are indistinguishable from *A. royerianus* and *A. cornuelianus* at 12 mm. diameter ; moreover, if d'Orbigny's type specimen of *A. royerianus* is indeed 20 mm. in diameter it is not possible to exclude certain species of *Megatyloceras* as being congeneric. Hence the nomenclature of both *Cheloniceras* and *Megatyloceras* is insecure.

5. Our efforts to trace the original specimen (or specimens) on which the holograph of *A. royerianus* is based have been unsuccessful. In reply to our enquiries (through Mme. E. Basse de Ménorval), M. Sornay of the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, wherein the d'Orbigny Collection is housed, has informed us (*in litt.* 18.7.52) that the d'Orbigny Collection now contains nothing which could have served as the basis for the illustration of *A. royerianus* and that all possible topotype specimens have been destroyed by decomposition. It is suggested that the specimen may have been returned to the Royer Collection, but the whereabouts of this Collection, if it still exists, is not known.

6. From the foregoing it is clear that doubt exists, and will always exist, as to the identity of the taxonomic species which is represented by the nominal species *Ammonites royerianus* d'Orbigny, and so long as this species remains the type species of the genus *Chelonicerias*, the nomenclature of that genus, of *Megatyloceras*, and of the family CHELONICERATIDAE rests upon an insecure basis. In order to remove this insecurity and to validate existing nomenclatorial practice in regard to the genus *Chelonicerias*, we ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature :—

(1) to use its Plenary Powers :—

- (a) to suppress for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy the specific name *royerianus* d'Orbigny, 1841, as published in the combination *Ammonites royerianus* ;
- (b) to set aside all selections of type-species for the genus *Chelonicerias* Hyatt, 1903, made prior to the proposed decision, and to designate *Ammonites cornuelianus* d'Orbigny, 1841, to be the type-species of the foregoing genus ;

(2) to place the following generic names on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* :—

- (a) *Chelonicerias* Hyatt, 1903 (type-species, by designation under the Plenary Powers, as proposed in (1)(b) above : *Ammonites cornuelianus* d'Orbigny, 1841) (gender of name : neuter) ;
- (b) *Megatyloceras* Humphrey, 1949 (type-species by original designation : *Douvilleicerias coronatum* Rouchadzé, 1932, *Bull. Inst. géol. Géorgie* 1(3) : 195, pl. 3, fig. 4 ; text-figs. 12, 13) (gender of name : neuter) ;

(3) to place the following specific names on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* :—

- (a) *cornuelianus* d'Orbigny, 1841, as published in the combination *Ammonites cornuelianus* ;
- (b) *coronatum* Rouchadzé, 1932, as published in the combination *Douvilleicerias coronatum* ;

(4) to place on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology* the specific name *royerianus* d'Orbigny, 1841, as published in the combination *Ammonites royerianus*, as proposed, under (1)(a) above, to be suppressed under the Plenary Powers.

References

- Hyatt, A., 1903 : Pseudoceratites of the Cretaceous, edited by T. W. Stanton. *U.S. geol. Surv. Mon.* **44**
- Humphrey, W. E., 1949 : Geology of the Sierra de los Muertos Area, Mexico, etc. *Bull. geol. Soc. Amer.* **60** (No. 1) : 89—176
- Kilian, W., 1913 : in Frech, *Lethaea geognostica*, **2**(3)
- Nikchitch, J., 1915 : Représentants du genre Douvilleiceras de l'Aptien, etc. *Com. Géol. Mém.* (n.s.) **121**
- Orbigny, A. d', 1841 : *Paléont. française*, Terr. crét., **1**, Céphalopodes
- Rodighiero, A., 1922 : Sistema Cretaceo Veneto Occidentale, etc. *Palaeont. ital.*, **25** : 39—125
- Roman, F., 1938 : *Les Ammonites jurassiques et crétacées. Essai de genera*, Paris
- Spath, L. F., 1921 : On Cretaceous Cephalopoda from Zululand. *Ann. South African Mus.* **12** : 217—321
- 1923 : A Monograph of the Ammonoidea of the Gault. Pt. 1. *Paleont. Soc. London*
- Stoyanow, A., 1949 : Lower Cretaceous Stratigraphy in south-eastern Arizona. *Mem. geol. Soc. Amer.* **38**

II. THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

2. Registration of the present application : Upon the receipt of the joint application by Mr. Casey and Mr. Wright the question of the designation for the genus *Chelonicer* Hyatt of a type species in harmony with accustomed usage was allotted the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 703.

3. Publication of the present application : The present was one of a number of applications which were sent to the printer prior to the opening in Copenhagen in July 1953 of the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology but with which, owing to pressure of work in the Office of the Commission arising out of

the Congress, it was found impossible to make any progress with until 1954. Eventually this application was published on 22nd October of that year in Part 9 of Volume 9 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (Casey & Wright, 1954, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 9 : 278—280).

4. Issue of Public Notices : Under the revised procedure prescribed by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Copenhagen, 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 51—56), Public Notice of the possible use by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature of its Plenary Powers in the present case was given on 22nd October 1954 (a) in Part 9 of Volume 9 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (the Part in which the joint application of Mr. Casey and Mr. Wright was published) and (b) to the other prescribed serial publications. In addition, such Notice was given also to certain general zoological serial publications and to a number of palaeontological serials in Europe and America.

5. No objection received : The issue of the Public Notices specified in paragraph 4 above elicited no objection to the action proposed from any source.

III. THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

6. Issue of Voting Paper V.P.(55)4 : On 27th May 1955 a Voting Paper (V.P.(55)4) was issued in which the Members of the Commission were invited to vote either for, or against, “ the proposal relating to the generic name *Chelonicerias* Hyatt, 1903, as set out in Points (1) to (4) in paragraph 6 at the foot of page 279 and continued on page 280 in Volume 9 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* ” [i.e. in the Points numbered as above in the application by Mr. R. Casey and Mr. C. W. Wright reproduced in the first paragraph of the present *Opinion*].

7. The Prescribed Voting Period : As the foregoing Voting Paper was issued under the Three-Month Rule, the Prescribed Voting Period closed on 27th August 1955.

8. Particulars of the Voting on Voting Paper V.P.(55)4 : At the close of the Prescribed Voting Period, the state of the voting on Voting Paper V.P.(55)4 was as follows :—

(a) *Affirmative Votes had been given by the following twenty-five (25) Commissioners (arranged in the order in which Votes were received) :*

Bodenheimer ; Holthuis ; Stoll ; Vokes ; Hering ;
Esaki ; do Amaral ; Mayr ; Kühnelt ; Dymond ;
Tortonese ; Hankó ; Bradley (J.C.) ; Lemche ;
Cabrera ; Prantl ; Riley ; Key ; Bonnet ; Hemming ;
Jaczewski ; Mertens ; Sylvester-Bradley ; Miller ;
Boschma ;

(b) *Negative Votes :*

None ;

(c) *Voting Papers not returned :*

None.

9. Declaration of Result of Vote : On 17th October 1955, Mr. Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission, acting as Returning Officer for the Vote taken on Voting Paper V.P.(55)4, signed a Certificate that the Votes cast were as set out in paragraph 8 above and declaring that the proposal submitted in the foregoing Voting Paper had been duly adopted and that the decision so taken was the decision of the International Commission in the matter aforesaid.

10. Addition of the family-group name "CHELONICERATIDAE" Spath (L.F.), 1923, to the "Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology" : On 11th May 1956 Mr. Hemming, as Secretary, executed the following Minute relative to the addition of the

family-group name CHELONICERATIDAE Spath (L.F.), 1923, to the *Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology* :—

**Addition of the name “CHELONICERATIDAE” Spath
(L.F.), 1923, to the “Official List of Family-Group Names
in Zoology”**

MINUTE by FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.

(*Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature*)

Although not published until 1954 the application regarding the generic name *Chelonicerass* Hyatt, 1903, submitted jointly by Mr. R. Casey and Mr. C. W. Wright was actually sent to the printer before the opening of the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology, Copenhagen, 1953. It was inevitable therefore that this application should contain no proposals relating to the placing of names on the *Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology*. The applicants made it clear, however, that a considerable part of their case for the use of the Plenary Powers was directed towards securing a firm basis for the family name CHELONICERATIDAE Spath (L.F.), 1923, which, as they pointed out, was in a precarious position, so long as doubts continued in regard to the interpretation of the type species of *Chelonicerass* Hyatt, its type genus.

2. In these circumstances and having regard to the General Directive issued to the Commission by the Copenhagen Congress in the matter of the foregoing *Official List*, I hereby direct, as Secretary to the Commission, that the Ruling to be included in the *Opinion* embodying the decision of the Commission in regard to the name *Chelonicerass* Hyatt, shall include a direction placing the family-group name CHELONICERATIDAE Spath, 1923, based on the foregoing generic name, on the *Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology*.

11. Preparation of the Ruling given in the present “Opinion” : On 12th May 1956 Mr. Hemming prepared the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* and at the same time signed a Certificate that the terms of that Ruling were in complete accord with those of the proposal approved by the International Commission in its Vote on Voting Paper V.P.(55)4, subject to the amplification specified in the Minute executed by the Secretary on 11th May 1956, the text of which has been reproduced in paragraph 10 of the present *Opinion*.

12. Original References : The following are the original references for the generic and specific names placed on *Official*

Lists and Official Indexes by the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* :—

Chelonicer Hyatt, 1903, *U.S. geol. Surv. Mon.* **44** : 101 footnote, 129

cornuelianus, *Ammonites*, d'Orbigny, 1841, *Paléont. franc.*, Terr. créét. **1** Céphalopodes : 364, pl. 112, figs. 1, 2

coronatum, *Douvilleicer* Rouchadzé, 1932, *Bull. Inst. géol. Géorgie* **1**(3) : 195, pl. 3, fig. 4, text figs. 12, 13

Megatyloceras Humphrey, 1949, *Bull. geol. Soc. Amer.* **60** (No. 1) : 149

royerianus, *Ammonites*, d'Orbigny, 1841, *Paléont. franc.*, Terr. créét. **1** Cephalopodes : 365, pl. 112, figs. 3—5

13. The following is the original reference for the family-group name placed on the *Official List* of names of taxa of this category by the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* : CHELONICERATIDAE Spath (L.F.), 1923, *Mon. Ammonoid. Gault Pt. 1* (Palaeont. Soc. Lond.) : 35.

14. The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

15. The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion* Four Hundred and Twenty-Eight (428) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London, this Twelfth day of May, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Six.

*Secretary to the International Commission
on Zoological Nomenclature*

FRANCIS HEMMING